City of Pocatello

Comprehensive Plan
For the
Wildland/Urban Interface

This report compiled by

Roger B. Sears

Division Chief/Fire Marshal

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks for their contributions to the development of this Plan go to:

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Glen Blackwell	Division Chief for the Pocatello Fire Department

Cover photography courtesy of Bureau of Land Management

This homeowner implemented pre-fire activities including defensible space, a green and well maintained landscape, reduction of wildland vegetation around the perimeter of the property, as well as a fire resistant roof. As seen in the photo, these treatments are very effective.

Wildland/Urban Interface Communities at Risk
Comprehensive Plan for Pocatello

In the summer 1987, a small grassfire was started in the City Creek area, on the west bench of Pocatello. The cause of this fire was kids playing with matches, starting a small "campfire", which, fanned by winds, quickly grew to what is now called the "Johnny Creek Fire". Although the origin of this fire was 2-3 miles north of the Johnny Creek Subdivision, a number of factors contributed to create Pocatello's most disastrous wildfire.

One of the resultant benefits of this fire was the formation of a cooperative partnership of all the agencies involved, including BLM, US Forest Service, Pocatello Fire Department, Chubbuck Fire Department, Portneuf Valley Fire District, Inkom Fire Department and the Fort Hall Fire Department. This partnership is the Gateway Interagency Fire Front (GIFF). GIFF has been a very useful tool in reducing the time needed to put fire crews on wildland fires that occur within the GIFF area. It has also been a useful tool in starting communication between the various agencies, and keeping a continual flow of information between these agencies. As has been shown in other areas of the fire service, communication between agencies results in stronger relationships, which results in better mitigation efforts for all problems within the area.

During the summer of 2000, dry lightning storms passed through the Pocatello area, and although the numerous fires that were started in the area were quickly extinguished due to the cooperative efforts of the GIFF members, other areas of Idaho, as well as Wyoming, Montana and other neighboring states did not fair as well, and the disastrous fire season of 2000 began. In the wilderness of central Idaho, these fires were not fully extinguished until the winter snow storms came. The Eastern Idaho Complex Fire, which is within the BLM Idaho Falls District, burned 192,450 acres, and was the third largest fire in the Northwest during the 2000 fire season. One result of the 2000 fire season was the formation of the National Fire Plan. This Comprehensive Plan is the result of efforts to reduce the risk of wildfire.

This Comprehensive Plan, hereafter referred to as the "Plan," supplements the National Fire Plan, to help communities at risk due to wildland/urban interface areas. Interface areas are located where communities have developed homes and businesses within the wildlands surrounding these communities. These areas have inherent problems that contribute to the loss of life and destruction of property, such as homes built in the forest with trees encroaching on the house's siding, and on occasion growing through the deck, as homeowners think of the aesthetic beauty of their homes, without considering the risks. Other problems include limited access into these areas due to narrow roads with timber and vegetation overgrowth, limited water supplies, and construction materials that contribute to fire spread.

This plan will address two major items. (1) It will identify and assess areas within Pocatello that are at risk due to development in the Wildland areas; and (2) It will identify mitigation projects, which by priority, will reduce the risks to property, both public and private.

In order to identify and assess the risks, the Pocatello Fire Department will utilize a study conducted and completed by Idaho State University titled "Wildland/Urban Interface and Communities at Risk, Joint Fire Modeling Project". This study has identified areas at risk using the following criteria:

1. Topography and vegetation. This includes slope and aspect and the resulting affects of spread rate of a fire, as well as how it creates difficulties in suppression efforts.

2. Suppression access. Slope and the accompanying vegetation dictate the ease or difficulty to get suppression crews to the fire.

The Plan will also show fuel types within the area, including unusually heavy concentrations of fuels, over mature or decadent fuels and other abnormalities that increase severity of fire behavior. Areas within the Wildland/Urban Interface that have high value homes and subdivisions will be identified.

In addition to using the ISU study, the Plan will give information on fire occurrences and risks for an average year, and from that information, identify areas in which mitigation efforts will result in the most benefit in saving the largest number of homes.

We will utilize organizations, such as the Student Conservation Association, in our mitigation efforts, having them contact homeowners within the high risk areas, setting public meetings in order to gain public input and to educate the public of our goals and objectives. Once we have identified the high hazard/high risk areas and made contact with homeowners within these areas, we will use that input to establish mitigation proposals that will reduce the risk in those areas.

Meetings will be scheduled with all interested parties, including local, state and federal agencies that share jurisdictions within the greater Pocatello area. These meetings will keep all parties informed of progress and also to get input into mitigation ideas, as well as what strategies should be used and where our mitigation efforts should be concentrated.

Hazard Analysis and Risk Assessment

As discussed earlier, the hazard analysis and risk assessment are based on a study completed by Idaho State University. This study was done specifically to help pro-active fire managers to develop plans such as this one. Each of the criteria used in their study will be discussed and derived conclusions will be shown. The two major criteria are topography/vegetation and suppression access. The study broke these down further into six categories:

1. Slope/spread rate
2. Slope/suppression difficulties
3. Aspect/sun and daily temperatures
4. Fuel load/spread rate
5. Fuel load/intensity
6. Response time

Slope/Spread Rate:

The criterion slope was split into two parts: (1) How slope affects rate of fire spread;, and (2) How slope affects suppression efforts.

1. The spread rate of a fire is linear and the surface of a fire increases exponentially to the angle of slope. This means as the slope of an area increases, the rate of fire spread increases more rapidly. Figure 1 shows the areas within Pocatello that have a slope which could create increased fire risk.

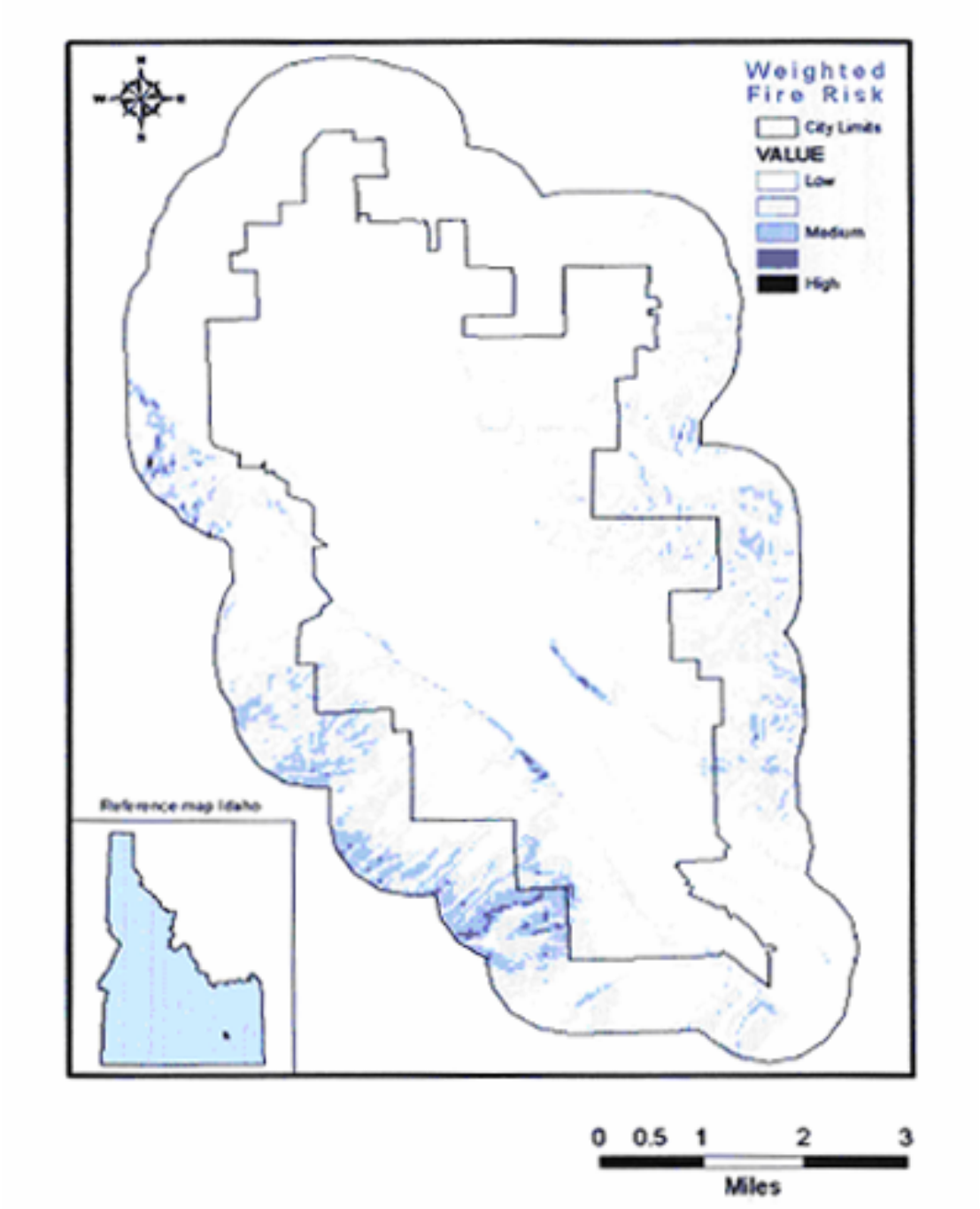

Figure 1. This map shows areas with a steeper slope, these areas may have a higher fire risk due to rate of spread increasing

2. The second part of the slope criteria discusses suppression difficulties associated with increased slope. Areas with hillsides where the slope is greater than twenty degrees will begin to have difficulties in suppression. On slopes greater than twenty-five degrees, heavy fire suppression machinery, such as BLM's "heavy engines" and bulldozers, will have difficulties in operating, and when the slope is twenty-five to fifty degrees, suppression activities are limited to manpower only, without any vehicle support. Figure 2 shows areas where the steeper slope creates increased difficulties in suppression, therefore contributing to a higher fire risk.

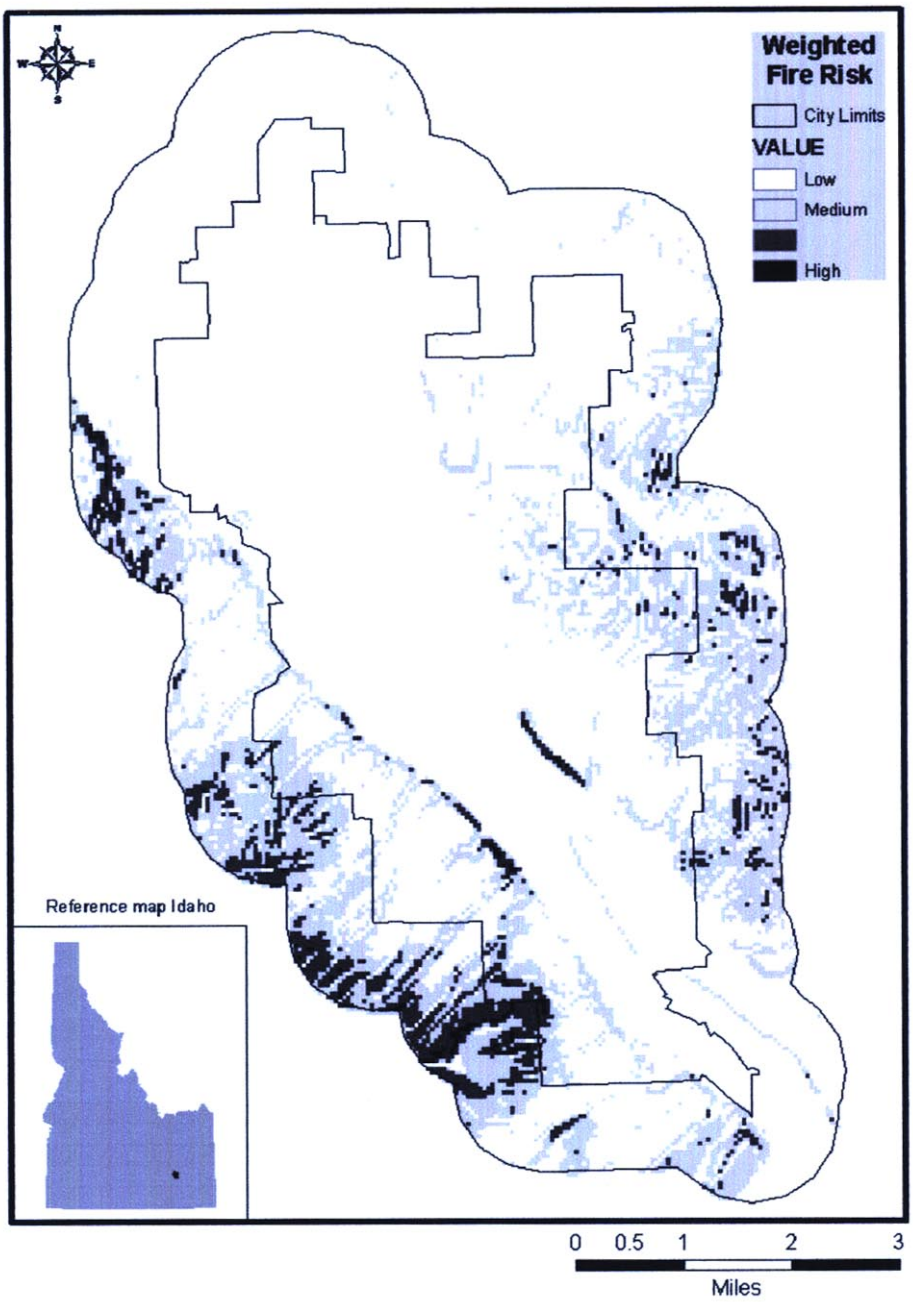

Figure 2. This map shows areas with steep slopes which may increase suppression difficulties.

Aspect/Sun and Daily Temperature:

The third criterion considers the angle of the sun and the daily temperature, and what affect it has on fire risk. The sun will, predictably, desiccate the ground and vegetation more on south facing slopes than on east-west slopes. It is also assumed that the sun's affects is greater in the afternoon due to the cumulative affects of increasing the daily temperatures. Therefore, sun and high daily temperatures will dry out vegetation on south facing slopes more quickly. Figure 3 shows how the sun's position and daily temperature affects fire risk.

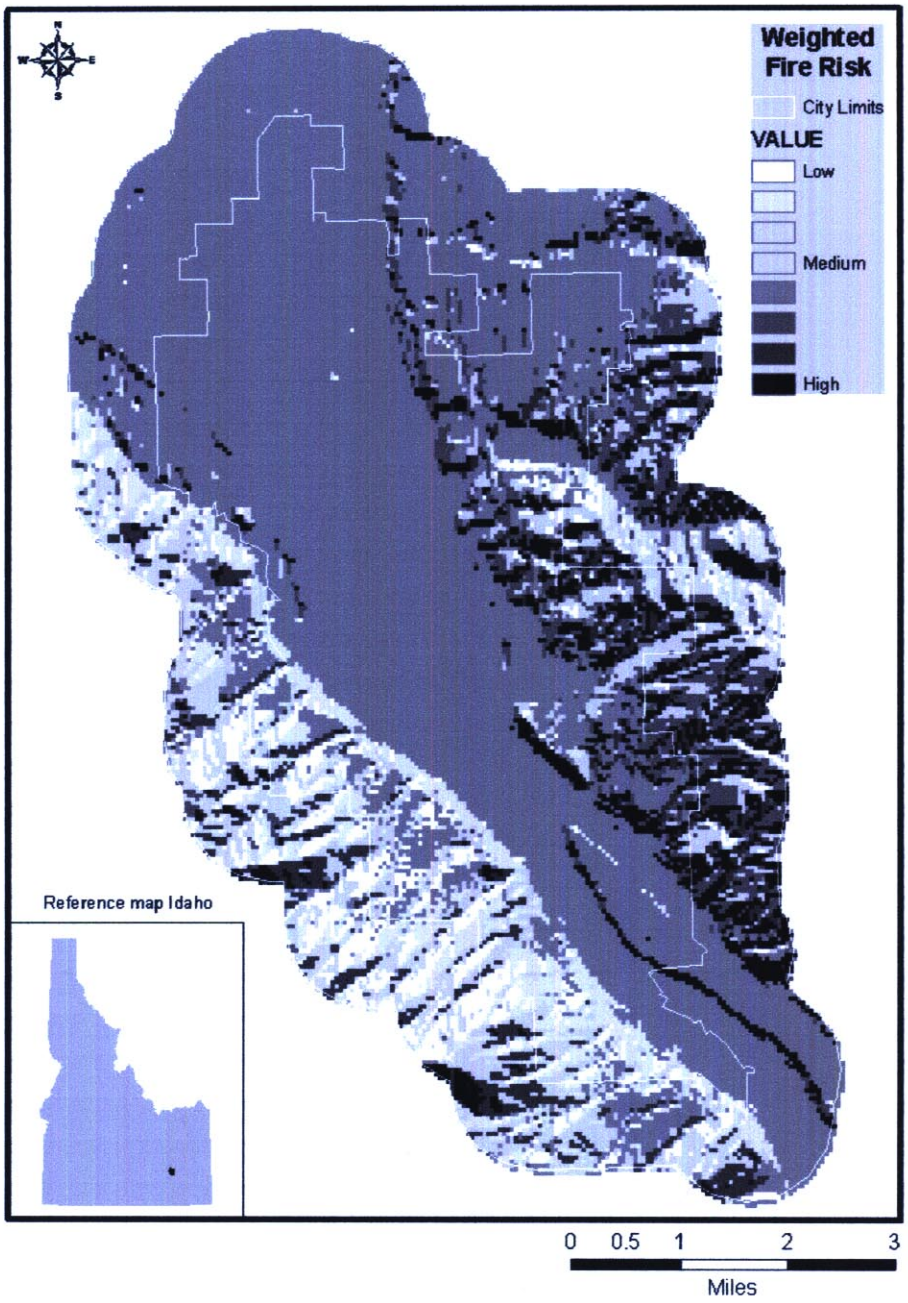

Figure 3. This map shows sun position and daily temperature which may affect fire risk.

Fuel Load/Spread Rate:

Fuel loads were mapped using Landsat 7 Enhanced Thematic Mapper (ETM+) Imagery, with 128 different sites on the Snake River Plain being sampled. These sample points were used to estimate fuel loads. One concern with the fuel load model is that it seems to have problems detecting juniper vegetation in some areas. The fuel load model will be validated in 2002 and these problems corrected. (Note: At the time this document is written, it is unsure if these conditions have been corrected). The fuel load classes that are found in the Pocatello study area are:

0 = Water and rock;
0.74 = Grassland;
1 = grassland with some sagebrush;
2 = low sagebrush;
4 = typical sagebrush;
6 = juniper;
10 = forest.

In the Wildland/Urban Interface model, fuel loading was used in two ways: (1) How fire spread rate is affected; and (2) How the fire intensity depends on the fuel load.

First, low fuel loads such as grasses and shrubs are considered to be the primary carrier of the fire, with a rapid spread rate. Fuel load class 4 has a higher spread rate than fuel class less than 4 because the vegetation is denser, and the fire burns more intensely, therefore it spreads faster. In fuel loads greater than 4, the vegetation that carries the fire reduces in density and the moisture content increased making the spread rate slower for this study. Figure 4 shows how the fire spread rate is affected by fuel loading.

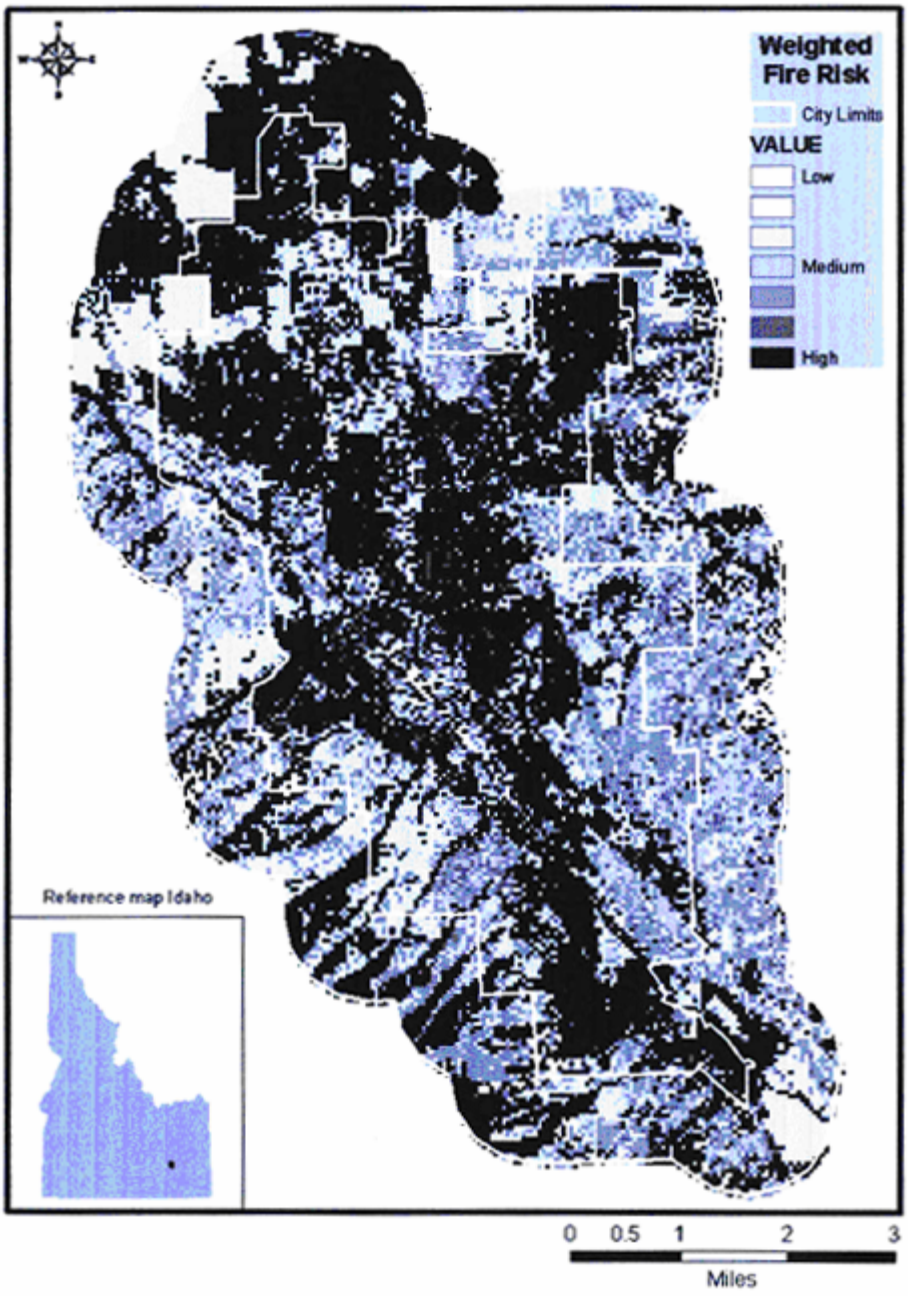

Figure 4. This map shows the fuel load within the study area which affects fire spread rate.

Next, the intensity of the fuel loading was considered. For this example, “intensity” is measured as the energy that the fire produces. The more energy a fire produces, the more difficult it is to suppress, making it a higher risk to the community. Figure 5 shows where fuel load can affect fire intensity.

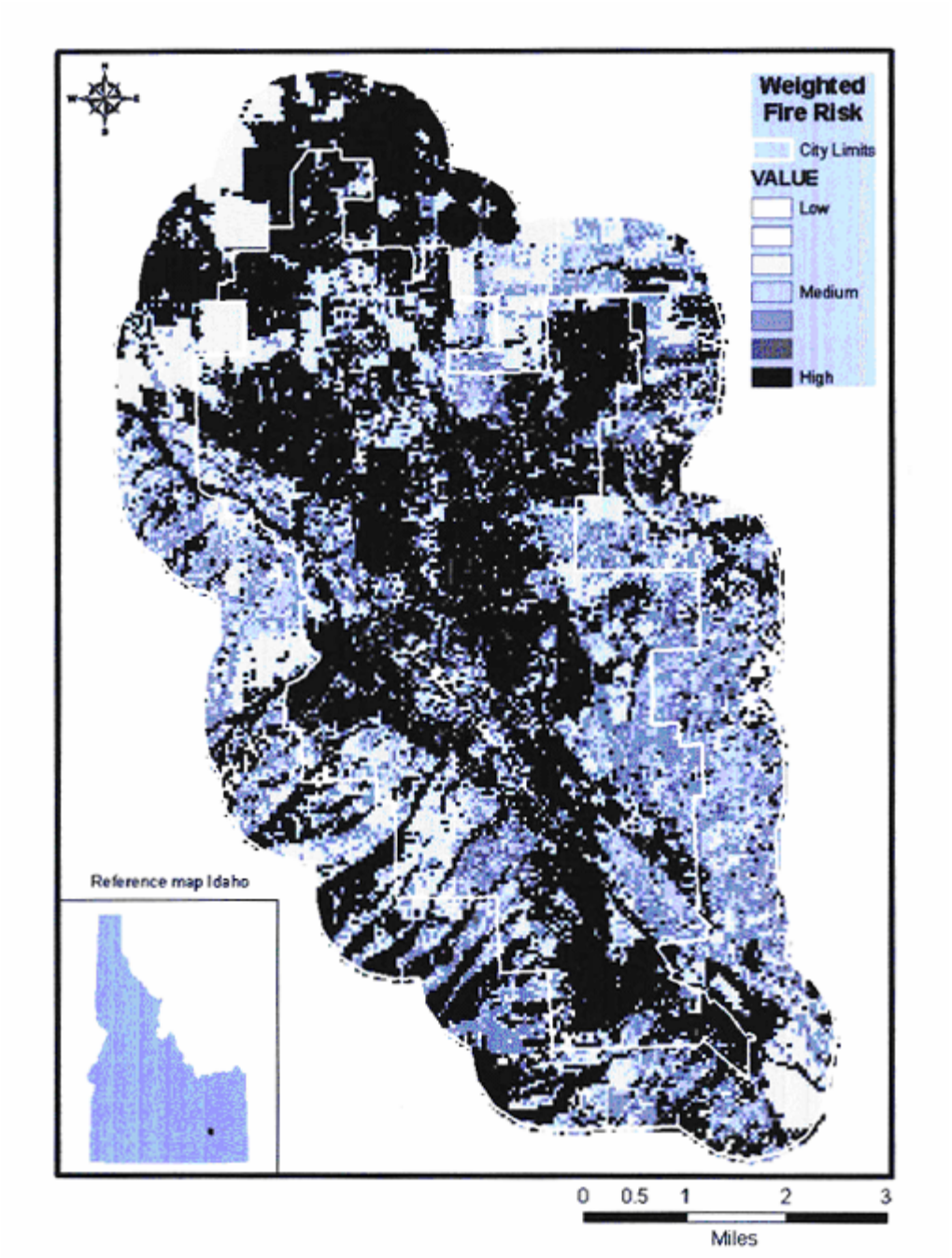

Figure 5. This map shows the fuel load and how the fire intensity could be affected.

Response Time:

The last criterion considered in the study was response time. The study tracked the time it takes for response vehicles to reach different areas within Pocatello. The weighting of this criterion was calculated based on the time a house catches fire until it flashes over. A wildfire that spreads into urban areas is going to be detected and reported before it reaches houses, thus the time it takes for firefighters to reach those houses is less relevant and this criterion gets a lower risk rate in the total model. Figure 6 shows how the calculated response time (identified by the red line) for Fire Station 1 in Pocatello compares to the tested response time, (green dots are locations responded to). As is shown, with few exceptions, the calculated and actual response times coincide.

Figure 6. This map shows how the calculated response time (line) for Fire Station 1 in Pocatello compares to the tested time (points).

Figure 7 shows how response times are distributed within the Pocatello study area. Darker areas indicate slower responses, and where the dark is close to the red dots (station locations), it shows how the terrain dictates response, even in an urban setting.

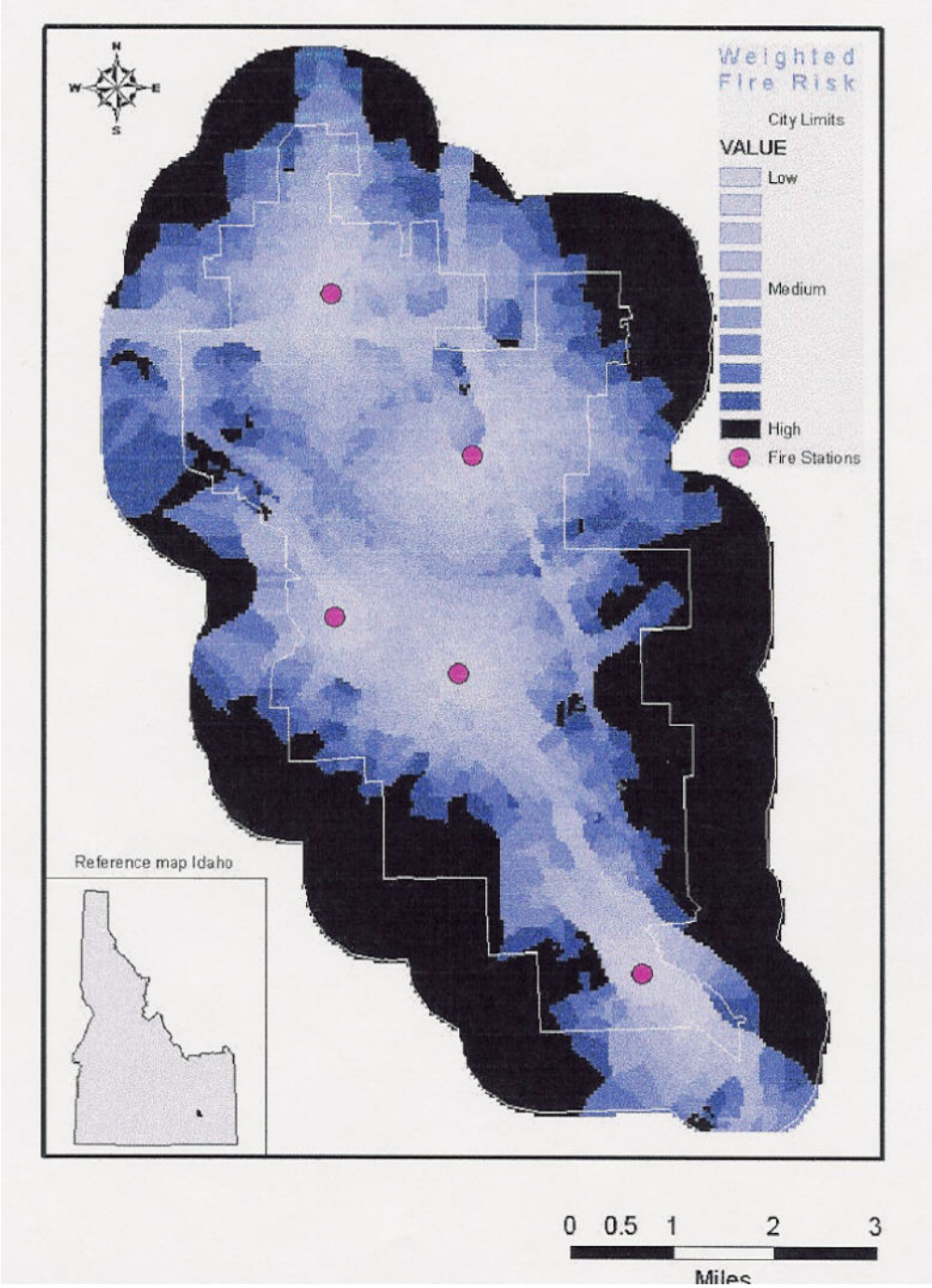

Figure 7. This map shows how response time is distributed within the study area.

The results of this study weighted the criteria as follows:

Fuel load/spread rate = 25% (of total fire model)
Fuel load/intensity = 22%
Slope/suppression difficulties = 19%
Slope/spread rate = 14%
Aspect/sun position and daily temperatures = 12%
Response time = 8%

The resultant Wildland/Urban Interface Communities at Risk Model is shown in Figure 8. It gives a good overview of the Pocatello Wildland/Urban Interface, and is easy to understand.

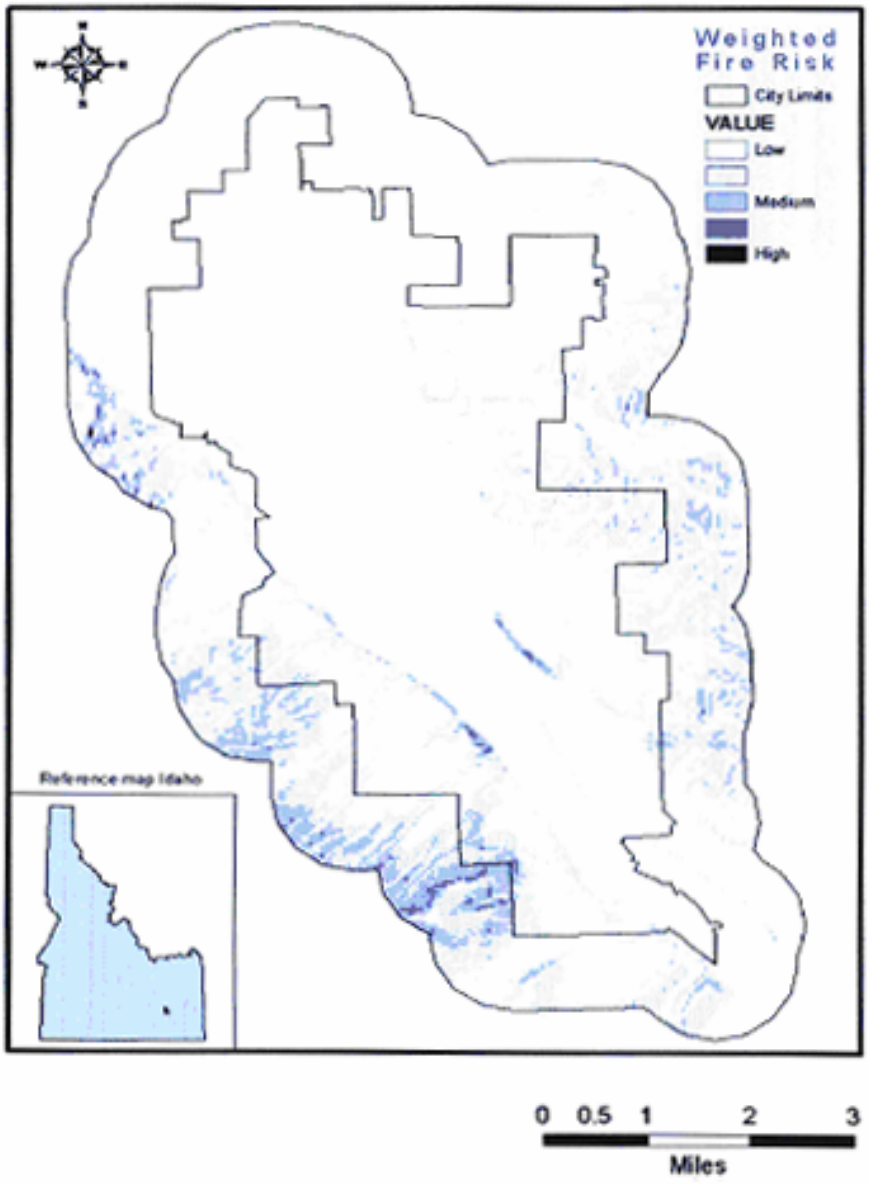

Figure 8. Wildland/Urban Interface Communities at Risk fire model.

One criterion that was not considered, however, was wind. It is assumed that fire spread rate will increase exponentially, depending on wind speed. This assumption applies better to smaller fires, since large fires tend to create their own wind systems. In addition to spread rate, wind will dry out heavy vegetation, such as trees with deep roots, more on the windward slopes, but it will only dry out the surface of the plant. Light vegetation such as grass, however, will be more affected because the wind will dry out the soil surface layer where the grass takes its water. It is assumed in this study to be a minor part of the wind criterion since the core of heavy vegetation will stay unaffected by this wind speed.

To summarize this portion of the Plan, by looking at the information shown by the ISU study, it can be seen that there are four areas-at-risk in the City of Pocatello that border the wildland. These areas are High County Subdivision, Sagewood Hills designation, Fremont Heights designation, and Johnny Creek designation. First, consider these subdivisions with respect to number of homes and the value of the property in these subdivisions. Figure 9 shows the relationship of these four areas in terms of the value of homes at risk. The majority of this property, by far, is private ownership. Once we have discussed the value and number of homes in each subdivision, we will look at the vegetation surrounding them, and the make up of the subdivision with respect to their urban interface problems. We will then look at the infrastructure as it relates to water supply and access, and finally we will look at any special hazards specific to each subdivision.

High Country Subdivision

High Country Subdivision is located on the northeast corner of Pocatello. It is a relatively new subdivision that has recently been annexed into the city. There is potential for more expansion in this area of town. As the current tax roles indicate, there are eight new streets, with a total of fifty-seven homes built. The value of the homes total $14,083,549. The average is $247,080; the highest valued home is $899,444. The total value of all property is$56,071,441. The wildland interface surrounds the subdivision, with drainages behind the properties. The interface is comprised of juniper and sage brush, as well as grasses.

High Country is a new development, located in an area that has previously been designated by the Pocatello Fire Department as a “Hazardous Fire Area”. It was built according to guidelines and requirements found in the pamphlet, “Fire Protection Requirements for Residential Development in Hazardous Fire Areas”, published by the Pocatello Fire Department in April of 1996. Road widths in this area were determined by the Pocatello Municipal Code, and comply with the City’s current subdivision requirements. The area’s water supply is from a water tank located above the subdivision, and delivered through the City’s system, with fire hydrants spaced 500 feet apart. Due to the infrastructure that is in place, the main threat is from fire occurring either from the wildland above the subdivision moving down into the subdivision, or a fire occurring in the drainages spreading into the subdivision and up into the hillsides above.

Sagewood Hills Designation

Sagewood Hills designation will include Sagewood Hills, Somerset, and Mountain Valley Subdivision. These are located between Center Street and Buckskin Road on the east side of Pocatello. The total number of homes is 236, with an appraised value of $30,889,087. The average home value is $130,886, with the highest value home being $287,416. The total value of

all property is $77,197,123. This subdivision is located on a hillside, with the interface at the upper areas and edges, containing sparse juniper and sagebrush, but mostly grasses.

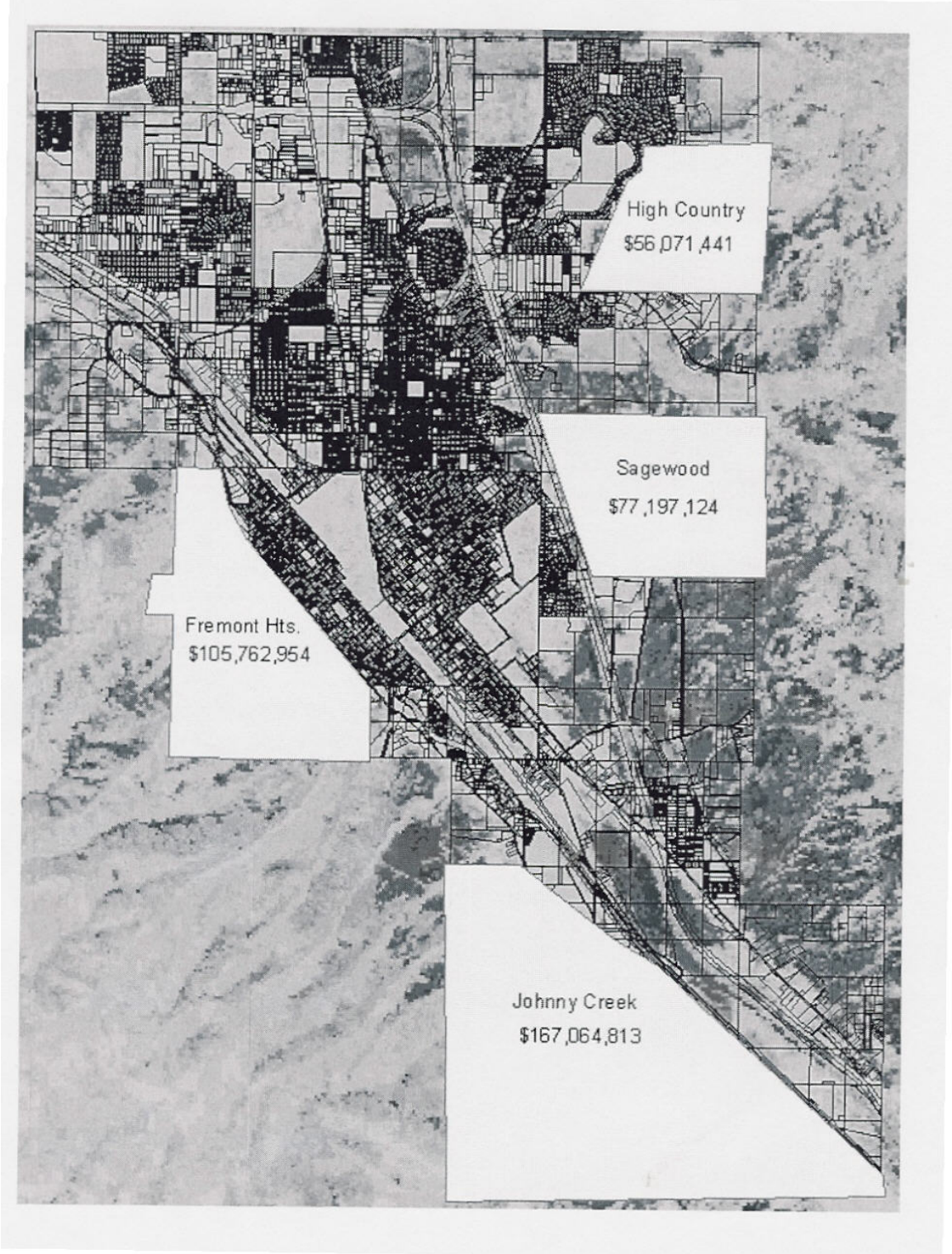

Figure 9. This shows a comparison of the value of homes in our four Wildland/Urban Interface areas.

There are open hillsides between streets, that are too steep to build on, as well as drainage gullies. These areas have natural vegetation, which include sparse junipers, sagebrush, and grasses. The older areas were built with exceptions to the City's code requiring fifty foot wide streets, and the streets are 30 foot wide, with no curb, gutter, or sidewalks. The water supply is from the City's water main system, with hydrant spacing at 500 foot. The newer areas have been developed with the "Fire Protection Requirements for Residential Development of Hazardous Fire Areas" guidelines followed, as well as the City's subdivision ordinance. The streets in these newer areas are fifty foot, with curb and gutter and some sidewalks, where required. The fire danger in the older section is from a grass fire starting in the hills above the older section burning down into the subdivision, or a fire starting in the drainages and burning outward. The newer portions of the subdivision have less threat to them.

Fremont Heights Designation

Fremont Heights designation will include Fremont Heights, Hillside, Hyland Park, Jensen, and Westello. They are located on the west bench of Pocatello. There are a total of 564 homes totaling a value of $44,056,059. The average home value is $78,114, with the highest valued home being $182,264. The total value of all property in the subdivision is $105,762,954. The homes consist of a mix of single family homes, duplexes, and triplexes. These are older subdivisions, with some new homes built in recent years. This designation is built on hillsides, with the interface at the upper areas and edges, with two major drainages that divide the vicinity into two distinct areas. The vegetation is mostly sagebrush and grasses in these drainages, with the upper areas having juniper trees approaching the homes. The subdivisions were built utilizing the City's subdivision code, with streets being wide; curb, gutter and sidewalks are common. The fire hazard from wildfire is only at the edges of the subdivision, with the interior being normal neighborhood type lawns and vegetation. The water supply is from the City's hydrant system. A fire has occurred in the past, every year or two. These fires are in the main drainage and the damage has been limited to the homes bordering the drainage, and the fire has not spread beyond those backyards.

Johnny Creek Designation

Johnny Creek designation is located in the southwest portion of Pocatello. This is the City's largest interface area, comprising of many smaller subdivisions, and having a current total of 716 homes, covering an area of approximately nine square miles. The total value of this subdivision is $115,362,865, with the average value of homes $161,121, and the highest valued home being $503,271. The area is also one of the fastest growing areas with an approximate total of 82 lots available for building. The total value of all property is $167,064,813.

Johnny Creek was originally built outside the city limits, and then annexed. This area has narrow roads of varying widths – fifteen to twenty-four feet – without curbs, gutters or sidewalks, and vegetation growing within two to three feet of the right of way. It is connected to the City's hydrant system. There are two main roads through the area. Johnny Creek Road begins at the north end of the neighborhood and Country Club Drive begins at the south end. The two roads

both start at South Bannock Highway and dead-end into each other on a hillside in the middle of the Johnny Creek area. Many dead-end streets shoot off of these main roads through the subdivision. Most of the roads that are not dead end wind their way off of, and back to Johnny Creek Road and Country Club Drive.

The vegetation is varied depending on the date the particular area was developed. The older areas both east and west of Johnny Creek Road have dense juniper trees, with sagebrush and tall grasses in open areas not covered with the junipers. This area has houses dotted on the hillside with junipers coming up to the house's siding, at times being incorporated into the wooden decks for esthetic purposes. There are numerous long, narrow driveways, without turnarounds, that are lined with old, mature junipers, making access to these structures difficult during fire conditions. The property surrounding the Johnny Creek area and the Fremont Heights subdivision are owned by either the City of Pocatello or the Bureau of Land Management.

The newer areas of the Country Club Drive have spots of dense junipers, but also have open, clear areas that consist of more traditional yards. The newer developments in this area are being built utilizing the City's subdivision requirements, which require wider roads, curb and gutter as well as sidewalks. The water supply is, again, the City's water system. All of the areas have drainages intertwining through them, some containing heavy junipers and grasses, others having sagebrush and grasses. The surrounding hillsides are a mix of dense junipers and open sagebrush hills and grassy hills. The hillside property surrounding the High Country Estates subdivision is mostly privately owned.

The threat from wildfire in this subdivision is three-fold. Fires started outside the subdivision can move into it due to directional prevailing winds. Fires started within the subdivision can spread easily due to heavy fuel loading, and swirling winds. A fully involved house fire that has vented to the outside could most predictably spread to the surrounding junipers in more than seventy-five percent of the Johnny Creek subdivision, thereby creating a certain wildfire. The fire station located on South Bannock Highway allows a 2-5 minute initial response to most of the Johnny Creek area, and during the fire season of the summer months, the Bureau of Land Management keeps fire attack crews housed at that station.

When appraising the special hazards that would make fighting a wildland fire difficult, these four areas of concern all have specific problems. However, the Johnny Creek area presents the most difficult hazards. This is due to houses that are located within the midst of thick junipers, the narrow access roads, which in some areas are fifteen feet wide and contain junipers encroaching into that fifteen foot of roadway, dead-end streets that have inadequate or no turn-around, and long driveways that themselves are overgrown with junipers, to the point that it would be difficult to send an engine company on them to protect the homes. As all the previous data illustrates, the Johnny Creek area is our community's biggest threat of an urban/interface conflagration.

Mitigation Strategies for the Urban/Interface

This section will discuss strategies for mitigation of the hazards within the defined high fire hazard areas. The biggest hazard, with the most significant potential for loss, as shown above is the Johnny Creek area. The hazards in this vicinity include thick junipers, which in some places encroach on the homes themselves, narrow access roads, with no clear area alongside roadways.

Our mitigation strategies all start with education. As with any project dealing with the public, the most important aspect is educating the public to our concerns. The goal is to inspire the public to take action. During this education period, we will do the following activities:

1. Develop an information and comment handout for distribution to residents in the urban/interface areas. This will help us get the public's input on what they feel is the most important risk they face living within an urban/interface area.

2. Establish citizens workshops and open houses to promote fuels mitigation and the Fire Wise Communities concept.

With the help of Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development, we will then contact the homeowners in the Johnny Creek area. During this contact, we will be doing the following:

1. Home surveys utilizing the Red Zone Software.

2. Answering questions that the homeowner may have regarding the Wildland/Urban Interface.

3. Setting meeting dates and inviting homeowners to attend a public education meeting.

4. Gathering names of homeowners interested in fuels reduction projects.

Emphasis will be placed on having neighborhood meetings, during which we will talk about the Fire Wise community concept, defensible space, and fuels reduction around their home, as well as answering any questions they might have. We will partner with other interested agencies, such as BLM and the US Forest Service, to help get the message across in a unified and effective manner.

Other mitigation strategies include purchasing a fire safety trailer and truck to pull it, which will, in effect, be a mobile classroom, allowing the fire department to take it to the neighborhood meetings, and use it as a focal point for the meeting. **The cost is approximately $70,000.**

We will purchase the Red Zone software and laptop computer to do home surveys, tracking all the homes in the Johnny Creek Subdivision. **Cost is approximately $5000.** These surveys will help us in planning strategies to use should there be a fire within the subdivision, as well as

letting the homeowner see the problems their home presents to firefighters during a wildland fire. We will emphasize the importance of defensible space, fuels mitigation, and the benefits of thinning the junipers to keep fires from getting close to structures. We will collect names of homeowners interested in fuels mitigation, and set thinning projects to accomplish the fuels mitigation strategy.

During the summer of 2002, approximately 33 properties were contacted by the SCA, and home surveys completed. There was a pilot fuels mitigation project initiated and completed in the Johnny Creek area, located on Wildflower and Kim Drive, and the drainage between these two streets. This very successful project will be the example for future fuels reduction projects in the Johnny Creek vicinity. Names of homeowners contacted are on file at the Pocatello Fire Department. Figures 10 through 12 show the before and after photos of this project.

Figure 10.

Figure 11.



Figure 12.

Another mitigation goal is to ensure land development ordinances and building and fire codes are adhered to and support the mitigation of urban/interface fire danger. We will also contact other communities and agencies to learn what fire prevention techniques they have used, which ones worked and those that didn't, and then use this knowledge in future prevention activities.

In order to perform the above strategies, we will be looking for help from Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development with homeowner contacts and in performing home surveys. In order for this to happen we will need to acquire grant funds to hire a coordinator and 4 students to form a project team. The coordinator will be administering the fuels mitigation project, developing work plans for the 4 member team doing the home surveys and mitigation of fuels, and keeping records of the entire project. This coordinator will also be instrumental in helping establish Firewise Communities within the Johnny Creek area. The coordinator and 4 person team will be utilized for approximately 5 to 7 years to start and finish the project. **Cost for 7 years is approximately $339,444.**

We will also seek grant funds to purchase a chipper to be used for the fuels mitigation project. The City of Pocatello's Urban Forestry Department of Parks and Recreation, will agree to maintain the chipper, in exchange for the use of the chipper. **The cost of the chipper is approximately $28,457.** We will also seek agreements with the county landfill to possibly allow homeowners doing the fuels mitigation to have reduced fees for the chipped debris. We will also pursue partnering with the Bureau of Land Management and U. S. Forest Service in this project to coincide with the Portneuf /West Bench Project.

Another objective of this risk/analysis plan is to identify suppression needs in case a wildland fire does happen in the Johnny Creek area, or any of the high fire hazard areas. Should a fire occur in this area we will need enough response equipment to handle the unique fire behavior. This equipment should include:

1. One "heavy" wildland fire truck to be stationed at the Indian Hills Fire Station. **Cost approximately $40,000.**

2. Three “light” wildland fire trucks to be stationed at the other 3 fire stations within the city. **Cost approximately $150,000.**

3. Wildland firefighting equipment to supply the above trucks, including but not limited to hose, nozzles, fire shelters, backpack pumps, Pulaski axes, round nose shovels, hard suction hose and strainer basket, etc. **Cost of equipment for 4 trucks approximately $9620.**
4. Hot shields face mask and particle filters. **Cost approximately $5200.**
5. Barricade firefighting gel to pre-treat 60 homes. **Cost approximately $15,000.**

To summarize, a hazard risk analysis has been completed for the City of Pocatello, and the surrounding communities. This risk analysis has pointed out the major target area for mitigation efforts in the community, based on values and numbers of homes at risk. Some initial efforts at education have been started, and a pilot fuels reduction project has been completed. Educating the public, creating defensible space around homes, and fuels reduction are ongoing projects, and the benefits that are expected from these projects are a safer environment for homeowners, fewer urban/interface fires, and less intense fires which relates to less dollar loss to the community at large. The efforts of all parties involved will continue well into this decade, as this is a project that will continue as long as the areas involved continue to grow.

This Comprehensive Plan reviewed and approved this 6th day of May, 2003

For Bureau of Land Management:

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For the Pocatello Fire Department:

Roger B. Sears
Division Chief/Fire Marshal

Ben Estes
Fire Chief

Pocatello Fire Department

Johnny Creek **HIGH**

Past Occurrence	2
Fuel Conditions	5
Population	5
Suppression	1

Suggested Mitigation Projects-Fuels Reduction

Pocatello Creek/Buckskin **HIGH**

Past Occurrence	3
Fuel Conditions	3
Population	3
Suppression	4

Suggested MitigationProjects-Public Education

Center Street East **LOW**

Past Occurrence	1
Fuel Conditions	2
Population	5
Suppression	1

Suggested Mitigation Projects-Not a real problem area now. Watch future development.

Assessment Overview Report
Pocatello Fire Department
Three Rivers Resource, Conservation and Development Area
June 2003

Profile of the Department:

The Pocatello Fire Department is a municipal program. Pocatello is the third largest city in the State of Idaho. The Department is responsible for the protection of the city as well as surrounding areas. The topography is varied from steep hills and streets with steep undeveloped areas to the east and west of the city to flat land through the center of the city. There are two major interstate highways that serve the city and it is home to Idaho State University.

Organizational Structure

The Pocatello Fire Department reports to the City Council. The organizational structure consists of one chief, an office manager, a secretary and ambulance billing clerk, four division chiefs (Public Safety, Training, Operations and EMS), three captains (two for Prevention and one for Training), and three platoons. The "A" platoon includes a shift commander, four captains, six drivers, four paramedics and seven firefighters. The "B" platoon includes a shift commander, four captains, six drivers, four paramedics and seven firefighters. The "C" platoon includes a shift commander, four captains, six drivers, four paramedics and seven firefighters. All personnel are paid staff.

Facilities:

The Department has five fire stations with a total of thirteen bays throughout the city. Facilities also include an airport training center with fire, rescue props, rail cars, truck trailer and a large warehouse for hands on training. The Department does have to store some older and reserve equipment outside. The Department would like to either add bays to the existing stations or build a holding/storage building to house this equipment.

Response Area:

The Fire Department provides fire protection for city property, wildland urban interface, residential, business, high tech (AMI Semiconductor plant) and high risk (Bowen Petroleum Bulk Storage). The Department serves 34 square mile area.

Budget and Funding:

The budget has remained steady over the past five years. Tax dollars fund 100% of the budget. Funding from EMS services and grants are not added to the base budget.

Grants:

Grants have been a source of funding for the Department in the past including grants from the INEEL, the State EMS Bureau and community development grants. The Department is familiar with the National Fire Plan and the Department's Fire Marshal is currently work with the BLM and Forest Service on grants for wildland urban interface prevention.

Records Management:

A comprehensive, computerized records management system is in place that tracks training, fire reports, personnel records, fire prevention, equipment and building maintenance, and EMS incident reports. The Department utilizes Spillman, NFIRS, Amazon Suite of medical records, Red Zone, and GIS mapping interface fire preplanning software.

Firefighting Program:

There are 67 personnel within the firefighting program that are paid personnel. Fire response includes protection for structural, wildland fire suppression, EMS, HazMat, rescue, terrorist threat and other special circumstances such as natural disasters, good intent, vehicle fires and alarm investigations. The area is at high risk for wildland urban interface fires as well as for terrorism. All members of the firefighting team are trained in wildland suppression. The Department responds to approximately 6,892 fire-related incidents annually. Water sources are adequate and reliable with the primary water supply coming from water mains and city hydrants. The Department is capable of meeting the 10-minute arrival on the scene response.

Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
● 5 Station, 13 Bays ● Paid Personnel ● 10,750 Structural/110 Wildland Total GPM Capacity ● Computerized Record Keeping System ● Fire Response: Structural, Wildlands, HazMat, EMS, Rescue, Terrorist Threat ● 8 Structural/5 Wildlands Response Vehicles ● Grid Access Address System ● Meetings All NFPA Standards	● Increased Wildland Equipment – All Wheel Drive Apparatus; Vehicles With Increased Capabilities; Heavier Weight Carrying Vehicles ● Better Utilization of Mutual Aid Agreements ● Add Bays to Existing Stations or Build a Storage Building ● Additional Water Tenders ● Grant Funding

Hazardous Materials Program:

The Department does have a HazMat Team. It is a state and regional response unit. This was the first HazMat response unit in the State of Idaho. The Department participates in mutual aid agreements with the Forest Service, BLM, INEEL and other GIFF members and selected departments.

HazMat Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
● State & Regional Response Unit ● Departmental & State Approved S.O.P.'s	● Equipment Upgrades ● Continuing Education

EMS Program:

The Department does provide an EMS program that includes paramedic and ACLS. Personnel are trained in EMT Basic, EMT Advanced-Intermediate and Paramedic levels. The Department responds to an average of 4,250 calls annually.

EMS Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
● EMT Basic ● EMT Advanced-Intermediate ● Paramedic ● 7 Type I Units/1 I-Transfer Ambulance	● Additional Paramedic Personnel ● AED Semi Automated External Defibrillators for All Response Vehicles

Training and Certification:

Minimum training for the Department includes structural protection (NFPA firefighter 1 & 2), wildland fire suppression, EMS, HazMat, and rescue. Training does meet some standards and the Department does utilize the IFSTA Training Program.

Training and Certification Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
● Structural Protection ● Wildlands Fire Suppression ● EMS ● HazMat ● Rescue (RIC Training, Rope, Water Extrication, Trench Rescue) ● IFSTA Training Program ● Standard Operating Procedures ● Training Materials	● Basic Wildland Training

Communications:

Communications are dispatched out of the Pocatello Police 911 system. The Department does respond to remote alarm calls and all vehicles are radio equipped. The Department does have sufficient portable hand-held radios. Some communication is adequate with other entities.

Communication Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
● Responds to Remote Alarm Calls ● Portable Radios ● All Vehicles Radio Equipped ● 16 VHF/16 UHF Channels, Air-to-Ground and Tower-to-Ground Communications	● Increase Frequencies ● Additional Repeaters ● Improved Maintenance Service

Prevention and Inspection:

The Department does administer and enforce Fire Code regulations. The engine companies do inspections under the direction of the Fire Marshal. The Department also investigates fire cause and origin.

Prevention and Inspection Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
● Fire Cause and Origin Investigations ● Fire Code Enforcement	● Increase Number of Personnel to Do Public Education ● 1 Civilian Public Educator

Public Education:

The Department does provide public educational programs for home safety. It also conducts public outreach at fairs, schools, public events, and fire station events.

Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
● Public Education ● Public Outreach to Scouting Programs	● Grants for Smoke Detectors ● Laptop Computer for Presentations ● Handouts for Public Presentations